

1 **Listing of Claims:**

2 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

3 **1. - 8.** (Canceled).

4

5 **9. - 16.** (Canceled).

6

7 **17. - 154.** (Canceled).

8

9

10 **155.** (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by
11 an intended recipient, said method comprising:

12 a) storing recipient data pertaining to at least one party on a computer associated with
13 said at least one party for purposes of retrieving e-mail, said stored recipient data
14 identifying said at least one party;

15 b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender
16 computer being connected to a communications network;

17 c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

18 d) detecting an access event, and discovering the stored recipient data that identifies the
19 recipient associated with the recipient e-mail address to which such e-mail was delivered;

20 e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered recipient data is
21 included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

22 f) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the
23 discovered recipient data contained in said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to
24 delivery information associated with said intended recipient in order to verify whether the e-mail
25 was accessed by the intended recipient.

1 156. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data comprises a data file
2 containing pre-recorded recipient data.

3
4 157. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event comprises access of said e-
5 mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

6
7 158. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event comprises access of an email
8 account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

9
10 159. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said access event comprises activation of an e-
11 mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

12
13 160. (New) The method as in claim 155, further comprising the steps of:

14 transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address an executable attachment file in
15 conjunction with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for
16 discovering the stored recipient data, a second module for generating the confirmation of receipt
17 notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation of receipt notice,

18 and upon the detection of the access event, automatically executing the first, second, and
19 third modules of the executable attachment file.

20
21 161. (New) The method as in claim 160, wherein the executable attachment file has a fourth
22 module transmitted and delivered therewith, the fourth module for detecting the access event, and
23 further comprising the step of:

24 automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery of the attachment file to the
25 recipient e-mail address.

1 162. (New) The method as in claim 155, further comprising the step of determining, upon
2 delivery of the e-mail file to the recipient e-mail address, whether the delivered e-mail file is of at
3 least one designated file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt notice, and

4 wherein the detecting step is performed if it is determined that the delivered e-mail file is of
5 the at least one designated file-type.

6 163. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said computer is a recipient computer.

7 164. (New) The method as in claim 163, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service
8 provider.

9 165. (New) The method as in claim 163, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is
10 directly accessible by the recipient, said user system including electronic mail processing software
11 and being capable of receiving e-mail.

12 166. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said computer is a remote user computer from
13 which said recipient may gain remote access to said recipient e-mail address.

14 167. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data pertains to
15 alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password identification, a computer
16 generated user code, or a combination thereof.

17 168. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data comprises, at least in
18 part, identity information that identifies an individual.

1 169. (New) The method as in claim 168, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric
2 identification.

3
4 170. (New) The method as in claim 169 further comprising means for recognizing biometric
5 attributes of an individual.

6
7 171. (New) The method as in claim 168, wherein said identity information includes
8 alphanumeric text identification information.

9
10 172. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data comprises, at least
11 in part, information that identifies a business.

12
13 173. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data comprises, at least in
14 part, information that identifies an organization.

15
16 174. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said stored recipient data comprises, at least in
17 part, a computer generated user code.

18
19 175. (New) The method as in claim 155 further including the step of including in said
20 confirmation of receipt notice access event data of attendant conditions of said access event.

21
22 176. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said party is an individual.

23
24 177. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said party is a business.

25
26 178. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said party is an organization.

1 179. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
2 verify proper delivery of legal documents.

3 180. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
4 verify proper delivery of confidential documents.

5
6 181. (New) The method as in claim 155, wherein said recipient e-mail address is associated with
7 a recipient computer.

8
9 182. (New) The method as in claim 181, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service
10 provider that is capable of receiving e-mail.

11
12 183. (New) The method as in claim 181, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is
13 directly accessible by the recipient, said user system including electronic mail processing software
14 and being capable of receiving e-mail.

15
16 184. (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by
17 an intended recipient, said method comprising:

18 a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender
19 computer being connected to a communications network;

20 b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

21 c) detecting an access event, and prompting the party who requested said access to enter
22 recipient data prior to allowing the requested access, said recipient data identifying the party who
23 requested said access;

24 d) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the entered recipient data is
25 included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

1 e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice, wherein the entered recipient data contained
2 in said confirmation of receipt notice can be compared to delivery information associated with said
3 intended recipient in order to verify whether the email was accessed by the intended recipient.

5 185. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said access event comprises access of said e-
6 mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

8 186. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said access event comprises access of an email
9 account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

11 187. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said access event comprises activation of an e-
12 mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

188. (New) The method as in claim 184, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address an executable attachment file in
15 conjunction with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for prompting
16 the party who requested said access event to enter recipient data, a second module for generating
17 the confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation of receipt
18 notice; and
19

20 upon the detection of the access event, automatically executing the first, second, and third
21 modules of the executable attachment file.

23 189. (New) The method as in claim 188, wherein the executable attachment file has a fourth
24 module transmitted and delivered therewith, the fourth module for detecting the access event, and
25 further comprising the step of automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery of the
26 attachment file to the recipient e-mail address.

1 190. (New) The method as in claim 184, further comprising the step of determining, upon
2 delivery of the e-mail file to the recipient e-mail address, whether the delivered e-mail file is of at
3 least one designated file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt notice, and

4 wherein the step of prompting said party who requested said access event for recipient data
5 is performed if it is determined that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one designated file-
6 type.

7 191. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said recipient e-mail address is associated with
8 a recipient computer.

9 192. (New) The method as in claim 191, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service
10 provider that is capable of receiving e-mail.

11 193. (New) The method as in claim 191, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is
12 directly accessible by the recipient, said user system including electronic mail processing software
13 and being capable of receiving e-mail.

14 194. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said entered recipient data pertains to
15 alphanumeric text identification, biometric identification, password identification, a computer
16 generated user code, or a combination thereof.

17 195. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said entered recipient data comprises, at least
18 in part, identity information that identifies an individual.

19 196. (New) The method as in claim 195, wherein said identity information pertains to biometric
20 identification.

1 197. (New) The method as in claim 196 further comprising means for recognizing biometric
2 attributes of an individual.

3

4 198. (New) The method as in claim 195, wherein said identity information includes
5 alphanumeric text identification information.

6

7 199. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said entered recipient data comprises, at least
8 in part, information that identifies a business.

9

10 200. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said entered recipient data comprises, at least
11 in part, information that identifies an organization.

12

13 201. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said entered recipient data comprises, at least
14 in part, a computer generated user code.

15

16 202. (New) The method as in claim 184 further including the step of including in said
17 confirmation of receipt notice access event data of attendant conditions of said access event.

18

19 203. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said party is an individual.

20

21 204. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said party is a business.

22

23 205. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said party is an organization.

24

25 206. (New) The method as in claim 184, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
26 verify proper delivery of legal documents.

1 **207. (New)** The method as in claim 184, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
2 verify proper delivery of confidential documents.

3
4 **208. (New)** A method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an
5 intended recipient, said method comprising:

6 a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender
7 computer being connected to a communications network;
8 b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;
9 c) acquiring recipient data that is related to biometric identification of the recipient;
10 d) detecting an access event, and generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the
11 acquired recipient data is included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and
12 e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

13
14 **209. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said access event comprises access of said e-
15 mail that was delivered to said recipient e-mail address.

16
17 **210. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said access event comprises access of an email
18 account associated with said recipient e-mail address.

19
20 **211. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said access event comprises activation of e-
21 mail processing software associated with said recipient e-mail address.

22
23 **212. (New)** The method as in claim 208, further comprising the step of:

24 transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail address an executable attachment file in
25 conjunction with the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a first module for acquiring
26 recipient data that is related to biometric identification of the recipient, a second module for

1 generating the confirmation of receipt notice, and a third module for transmitting the confirmation
2 of receipt notice; and

3 upon the detection of the access event, automatically executing at least the second and third
4 modules of the executable attachment file.

5
6 213. (New) The method as in claim 212, wherein the executable attachment file has a fourth
7 module transmitted and delivered therewith, the fourth module for detecting the access event, and
8 further comprising the step of:

9 automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery of the attachment file to the
10 recipient e-mail address.

11
12 214. (New) The method as in claim 208,

13 further comprising the step of determining, upon delivery of the e-mail file to the
14 recipient e-mail address, whether the delivered e-mail file is of at least one designated file-type
15 requiring a confirmation of receipt notice, and

16 wherein the step of prompting said party who initiated said access event for recipient data
17 occurs upon a determination that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one designated file-type.

18
19 215. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient e-mail address is associated with
20 a recipient computer.

21
22 216. (New) The method as in claim 215, wherein said recipient computer is a server of a service
23 provider that is capable of receiving e-mail.

24
25 217. (New) The method as in claim 215, wherein said recipient computer is a user system that is
26 directly accessible by the recipient, said user system including electronic mail processing software

1 and being capable of receiving e-mail.

2

3 **218. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said acquired recipient data is further related to
4 alphanumeric text identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a
5 combination thereof.

6

7 **219. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said acquired recipient data comprises identity
8 information that identifies an individual.

9

10 **220. (New)** The method as in claim 208 further comprising means for recognizing biometric
11 attributes of an individual.

12

13 **221. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said acquired recipient data comprises
14 information that identifies a business.

15

16 **222. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said acquired recipient data comprises
17 information that identifies an organization.

18

19 **223. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said acquired recipient data comprises a
20 computer generated user code.

21

22 **224. (New)** The method as in claim 208 further including the step of including in said
23 confirmation of receipt notice access event data of attendant conditions of said access event.

24

25 **225. (New)** The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient is an individual.

1 226. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient is a business.

2 227. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient is an organization.

3 228. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
4 verify proper delivery of legal documents.

5 229. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said confirmation of receipt notice is used to
6 verify proper delivery of confidential documents.

7 230. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient data is acquired prior to said
8 access event.

9 231. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient data is acquired as a requisite
10 condition for permitting access to said delivered e-mail.

11 232. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient data is acquired as a requisite
12 condition for permitting access to said recipient e-mail address.

13 233. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient data is acquired as a requisite
14 condition for operating a remote user computer, said remote user computer being operable to gain
15 access to said recipient e-mail address.

16 234. (New) The method as in claim 208, wherein said recipient data is comprised of
17 alphanumeric text, said alphanumeric text being associated with the at least one biometric attribute
18 of said recipient.

1 235. (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by
2 an intended recipient, said method comprising:

3 a) storing recipient data on a computer associated with e-mail retrieval, said stored
4 recipient data identifying a particular party;

5 b) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to the intended recipient, the sender
6 computer being connected to a communications network;

7 c) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

8 d) detecting an access event, and discovering the stored recipient data that identifies the
9 party associated with the recipient e-mail address to which such email was delivered;

10 e) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the discovered recipient data is
11 included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

12 f) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

13
14 236. (New) A method for verifying whether an e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by
15 an intended recipient, said method comprising:

16 a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender
17 computer being connected to a communications network;

18 b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

19 c) detecting an access event, and prompting the party associated with said access event to
20 enter recipient data prior to allowing the requested access, said recipient data identifying the party
21 associated with said requested access;

22 d) generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein the entered recipient data is
23 included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and

24 e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

1 237. (New) A method for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an
2 intended recipient, said method comprising:

3

4 a) transmitting an e-mail from a sender computer to an intended recipient, the sender
5 computer being connected to a communications network;

6 b) delivering said e-mail to a recipient e-mail address;

7 c) identifying said recipient via biometric identification;

8 d) detecting an access event, and generating a confirmation of receipt notice wherein
9 data that identifies said recipient is included in said confirmation of receipt notice; and
10 e) sending said confirmation of receipt notice.

11

12 238. (New) The method as in claim 237, wherein said data that identifies said recipient is related
13 to alphanumeric text identification, password identification, a computer generated user code, or a
14 combination thereof.

15

16 239. (New) The method as in claim 237, wherein said recipient data is comprised of
17 alphanumeric text, said alphanumeric text being associated with the at least one biometric attribute
18 of said recipient.

19

20 240. (New) The method as in claim 237 further comprising means for recognizing biometric
21 attributes of an individual.

22

23 241. (New) The method as in claim 237, wherein said data that identifies said recipient
24 comprises identity information that identifies an individual.

242. (New) The method as in claim 237, wherein said data that identifies said recipient comprises information that identifies a business.

243. (New) The method as in claim 237, wherein said data that identifies said recipient comprises information that identifies an organization.

244. (New) A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an intended recipient, said system comprising:

- a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-mail is transmitted;

b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient computer capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means for storing said received e-mail;

c) recipient data stored on a computer associated with the intended recipient, said stored recipient data associated with a particular recipient e-mail address and identifying a party associated with said particular e-mail address;

d) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access event, said software executes the steps of:

- i. retrieving the stored recipient data that identifies the party associated with said particular recipient e-mail address to which such email was delivered; and
- ii. including the acquired recipient data in a confirmation of receipt notice; and

e) means for transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address associated with said sending party.

245. (New) The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises access of a delivered e-mail.

1 246. (New) The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail
2 account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

3
4 247. (New) The system as in claim 244, wherein said access event comprises activation of the e-
5 mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

6
7 248. (New) A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an
8 intended recipient, said system comprising:

9 a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-
10 mail is transmitted;

11 b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient
12 computer capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means for
13 storing said received e-mail;

14 c) software capable of detecting an access event, wherein, upon detecting said access
15 event, said software:

16 i. prompts the party associated with said access event to enter recipient data prior
17 to allowing the requested access, if no such recipient data pertaining to said party
18 has been entered prior to said access event, said recipient data identifying the
19 party associated with said requested access; and

20 ii. includes the acquired recipient data in a confirmation of receipt notice; and

21 e) means for transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address
22 associated with said sending party.

23
24 249. (New) The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises access of a
25 delivered e-mail.

1 250. (New) The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail
2 account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

3
4 251. (New) The system as in claim 248, wherein said access event comprises activation of the e-
5 mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

6
7 252. (New) A system for verifying whether e-mail sent by a sending party was accessed by an
8 intended recipient, said system comprising:

9 a) a sender computer connected to a communications network and from which an e-mail is
10 transmitted;

11 b) a recipient computer connected to said communications network, said recipient
12 computer being capable of receiving said transmitted e-mail and further having data storage means
13 for storing said received e-mail;

14 c) biometric identification means for recognizing biometric attributes of an individual;

15 d) software capable of detecting an access event, said software also being capable of
16 acquiring biometric data identifying the party causing said access event, and including the acquired
17 data in a confirmation of receipt notice; and

18 e) means for transmitting said confirmation of receipt notice to an e-mail address
19 associated with said sending party.

20
21 253. (New) The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event comprises access of a
22 delivered e-mail.

23
24 254. (New) The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event comprises access of an e-mail
25 account associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.

1 **255. (New)** The system as in claim 252, wherein said access event comprises activation of the e-
2 mail processing software associated with the e-mail address to which said e-mail was delivered.
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27